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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 4, 1953

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Zuleta Angel, former Colombian Ambassador to the U.S.,
Mr. Thomas C. Mann, Acting Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs.

COPIES TO: Amembassy Guatemala
Mr. Leddy, WHD
Mr. Bennett, CoA

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Dr. Zuleta Angel called on me, at his request, and informed me that Colonel Barrios has obtained the support of Generalissimo Trujillo; that Colonel Castillo is backed by President Somoza; and that the two former Guatemalan Army officers are now in the process of coordinating their activities.

I told Dr. Zuleta that his intelligence was far better than mine since I had no information that this sort of thing was going on and indicated to him that I was very skeptical about the accuracy of the report. I did this with the intention of making it clear that the United States Government was not party to any such alleged activity. (Dr. Zuleta is the former Colombian Ambassador to the United States and is at present the Rector of the University of the Andes.)

Dr. Zuleta then wished to discuss the current status of the Friendship and Economic Development Treaty which we negotiated with Colombia when Zuleta was Ambassador but which has not been ratified. Since I was not familiar with the details, I asked for Mr. Bennett to join us and he will report this part of the conversation.

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